IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s):

John Brian Pickering

ssignee:

**IBM** Corporation

Voice Processing System

Serial No.:

09/696,485

Filing Date:

10/25/2000

Examiner:

Susan Iris McFadden

Group Art Unit:

2654

Docket No.:

GB9-1999-0107US1

Conf. No.:

3603

(a/k/a 7036-P145US)

RECEIVED

SEP 1 5 2004

Dallas, Texas September 7, 2004

**Technology Center 2600** 

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

## **RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION DATED 5/4/04**

## I. INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

Dear Sir:

This paper is responsive to the Office Action dated May 4, 2004, having a shortened statutory period expiring on August 4, 2004, extended to September 7, 2004 (since September 4, 2004 fell on Labor Day weekend) by the petition and fee filed concurrently herewith. Further examination and reconsideration are respectfully requested in view of the remarks set forth below.